

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-07 NSCE-00 PM-03 L-02 CIAE-00

INR-11 NSAE-00 RSC-01 DODE-00 SP-02 MC-02 AID-10

IGA-01 ACDA-10 EB-03 OMB-01 FBIE-00 SY-02 SCCT-01

DRC-01 /082 W

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R 101522Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8390

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT AU PRINCE 1547

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, MCAP, HA

SUBJECT: GOH POSITION ON ARMS ACQUISITIONS

1. PRESIDENT DUVALIER, AS SECOND TOPIC OF DISCUSSION RAISED DURING AUGUST 9 CONVERSATION WITH ME, NOTED DEPT'S SUGGESTION MADE TO AMB BOUCHETTE RECENTLY THAT LATEST ORDER FOR M-14 RIFLES BE HELD UP FOR 2/3 MONTHS. HE SAID GOH UNDERSTOOD DEPT REQUEST AND WAS WILLING TO BE PATIENT; HE MERELY WANTED US TO KNOW THAT EARLIER PURCHASE OF M-1'S HAD BEEN DESTINED FOR PROVINCIAL UNITS TO REPLACE SPRINGFIELDS AND MAUSERS; M-14'S WOULD BE USED BY ELITE UNITS STATIONED PORT-AU-PRINCE SINCE THEIR PRESENT WEAPONS WERE LARGELY WW II VINTAGE AND MORALE OF TROOPS COULD NOT BE HIGH IF THEY BELIEVED ENEMY (AS HAD BEEN CASE IN PAST INVASION ATTEMPTS) WOULD HAVE SUPERIOR FIREPOWER.

2. HE ALSO SAID HE HOPED USG WOULD UNDERSTAND IF IN FUTURE GOH SOUGHT APPROVAL TO PURCHASE 2-3 80-90 FOOT PATROL CRAFT WITH LONGER RANGE AND LARGER COMPLEMENT THAN THREE SWIFTCRAFTS PRESENTLY IN INVENTORY. THIS WOULD GIVE GOH CAPACITY TO DETER SMUGGLING AND INVASION THREATS, AND  
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RELIEVE BURDEN NOW CARRIED ALONE BY U.S. COAST GUARD.

3. THIS LED TO EXTENDED DISCUSSION IN WHICH I STRESSED THAT PRESENT MILITARY THREAT TO HAITI FROM ANY QUARTER IS MINIMAL. EXILES WERE HOPELESSLY DIVIDED AND HAD LITTLE STOMACH FOR EXPEDITIONARY FORCES THOUGH PERHAPS FOR AIR-MAILING BOOBY-TRAPPED PACKAGES. U.S. NAVAL SURVEILLANCE WOULD DETECT ANY ATTEMPT IN UNLIKELY EVENT ONE WERE TO BE MADE. AT TIME OF GREAT BUDGETARY PRESSURES, INFLATION, REQUIREMENTS FOR ADDITIONAL COUNTERPART, GOH MUST BE CERTAIN ALL MILITARY EXPENDITURES WERE JUSTIFIABLE IN THEMSELVES AS PART OF COHERENT PROGRAM AND BORE REASONABLE RELATIONSHIP TO ALLOCATION OF RESOURCES OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

4. PRESIDENT ACKNOWLEDGED ARGUMENTS, SAID HE EVEN AGREED WITH ME, BUT MAINTAINED IT WAS BETTER TO BE PREPARED FOR ANY EVENTUALITY, AND HAITI'S NEEDS WERE STRICTLY DEFENSIVE.

5. COMMENT: THE CELEBRATED 13 INVASIONS OF THE 60'S HAVE LEFT A DEEP PSYCHOLOGICAL IMPRESSION ON THE PRESIDENT AND HE SEEMS UNABLE TO PUT INTO REALISTIC PERSPECTIVE THE DEGREE OF DANGER WHICH EXILES PRESENTLY CONSTITUTE. HE IS, HOWEVER, MUCH MORE ATTUNED NOW TO CONGRESSIONAL PROBLEMS THAT WILL BE CREATED BY MILITARY SPENDING THAT COULD BE TERMED EXCESSIVE OR FRIVOLOUS.

6. ACTION REQUESTED: IN SEEKING FURTHER ARGUMENTS TO PLACE PROBLEM IN MORE REALISTIC FRAMEWORK, I WOULD APPRECIATE ANY INFORMATION FBI OR CIA COULD PROVIDE AS TO PRESENT DISPOSITIONS, CAPACITY, OR INTENTIONS OF HAITIAN EXILES IN U.S. OR CUBA WITH RESPECT TO PLANNING OR ORGANIZING INVASION ATTEMPTS AGAINST HAITI. AN AUTHORITATIVE EVALUATION ON THIS ISSUE WOULD BE DISTINCTLY SALUTARY HERE.  
ISHAM

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## Message Attributes

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